



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, February 15

8:00 For our Pastor and all
Priests by *Ann Sayers*

Tuesday, February 16

8:00 Dawn Wysocki by *family*

**Wednesday, February 17 - Ash
Wednesday**

8:00 Michael Kelly by *Lee Coyle*
5:30 Josephine Randazzo by
Jim and MaryAnn Schneider

Thursday, February 18

8:00 David Stock by *Daniel and
Frances Springer*

Friday, February 19

8:00 Fred Kulakowski by *Jim
and Diane Creed*

Saturday, February 20

9:00 Parishioners of St. Teresa's
4:30 Maria Degaspero by *Excel
Industries*

**Sunday, February 21 - 1st Sunday
of Lent**

8:00 Women's Guild
Anniversary Mass

10:15 Bernie Badding by *Marie
Murphy*



Scripture Readings for the Week

Monday - James 1:1-11;

Mark 8:11-13

Tuesday - James 1:12-18;

Mark 8:14-21

Wednesday - Joel 2:12-18; 2

Corinthians 5:20-6:2; Matthew
6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday - Deuteronomy 30:15-
20; Luke 9:22-25

Friday - Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew
9:14-15

Saturday - Isaiah 58:9b-14; Luke
5:27-32

Next Sunday - Deuteronomy 26:4-
10; Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13

The Collection for the Church
in Central and Eastern Europe
will take place this weekend
in our parish. Please try to be
generous!



PASTORAL SHARINGS

The best made plans, events, and life itself can sometimes get turned upside down. The poor and the hungry are blessed, and the rich and the popular are cursed! How can this be? I doubt that there are many individuals who, upon receiving the news of winning the lottery, could be convinced that they are cursed. And what persons, after a delicious banquet, would feel cursed because of the very event that has given them much joy! Such things seem to be backward from our way of thinking.

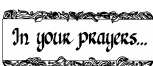
On the other hand, we can all be blinded by our human weakness, and desire things that do not satisfy. In these cases it might be good to have our lives shaken up a bit.

It is difficult to accept the truth that we should be thankful for our limitations, shortcomings, and disabilities, but today's gospel seems to indicate that this is the case. Few, if any, people like restrictions, and from our early childhood we learn that independence is necessary if we are going to grow into healthy, loving people. But, on the other hand, total freedom has a way of leaving us unfocused, undirected, and sometimes just plain blah. Ironically, it is often the restrictions in our lives that help us to grow personally and spiritually. In the same way that the aperture in the lens of the camera or the nozzle on a garden hose can bring things into focus, limitations in our life remind us of our total dependence upon God. When life is good, it is easy to forget who brought us to the party—and such is the lesson of today's readings.

No one would say that the impoverished Haitians are blessed to be poor, but it seems that their total reliance on others and vulnerability may open our eyes to the many blessings that we may take for granted—or not recognize at all. As we come to the table of the Lord and share in this Eucharist, let us be aware of our total reliance upon God, and ask Christ to lead us through the restrictions in our lives so that we, too, can be truly blessed.

William Schipper, O.S.B.

Our Special Prayer Request for the Week: That as the attractions of consumerism are all around us we maintain a spirit of detachment so we will always seek the values which are found in Jesus; we pray to the Lord...



In your prayers... Please pray for the sick of the parish and their family members particularly; Thomas Brennan, Alexis Bruno, Julie Conschafter, Loretta Varo, Julie Carlo, Pamela Rodgers, Julie Robertson, Rose Cvitanovich, Mark Pearce, Dominic Delre, Rita Matynka, Scott Tellgren, Donald Helmbrecht, Josephine Liberti, Bob Fiorello and Kristen Konieczny Sikora and her baby.



Last weekend we welcomed our first girl of the New Year into our faith community through the saving waters of Baptism. **Anna Grace Bergman** is the daughter of Judy (Rasp) and Randy Bergman of Cedar Street. Congratulations and God's richest blessing to the entire family!

Lenten Lecture Series Reminder: The Spirituality of the Carmelites - Monday, February 22 at 7:30 pm - Christ the King Church, Snyder.

February 17th is Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the Season of Lent

Abstinence: All Catholics who have reached their 14th birthday are bound to abstain totally from meat on the following days: *Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent.*

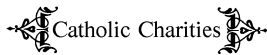
Fasting: All Catholics between their 18th and 60th birthdays are also bound to observe the Law of Fast on the following days: *Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.* This practice involves limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Light sustenance may be taken on two other occasions in the course of the day.

Easter Duty: After they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, all the faithful are bound by obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year. This precept must be fulfilled during the Easter season, unless for a good reason it is fulfilled at another time during the year. This obligation may be fulfilled between February 21 (First Sunday of Lent) and May 30 (Trinity Sunday).

Reconciliation: Catholics are bound by an obligation faithfully to confess serious sins at least once a year. Check future bulletins for our Combined Parish Penance Service.



Join us All Parishioners of St. Teresa's are invited to attend **for Soup!**our Annual Lenten Meal on Ash Wednesday, February 17th in the Parish Hall following the 5:30 pm Mass. The meal will consist of soup, rolls and beverages. There will be NO speaker this year just an opportunity to begin Lent with the fellowship of other members. Hope to see you there!



In order to provide hope, we must have charity—or love. This Valentine's Day, please open your heart to the senior who struggles to find affordable, livable housing or simply needs a bit of social support or a hot meal to stay in their own home or the family who depends on a bag of groceries each month from a pantry to keep food on the table. **Whoever. Wherever. Whenever. Catholic Charities is always there. Please be there too.** Give selflessly to the 2010 Appeal. Find out more at www.ccnny.org or call (716) 218-1400.

Eighth Annual Catholic Men's Conference Saturday March 20th, 2010
The Conference site will again be at Cardinal O'Hara High School in Tonawanda, right off the I-290. Space will be limited, so register early by using the online registration system which can be found at www.spiritiscalling.org. Men who register by February 15 will also receive a discount on their registration fee. Don't miss this inspiring annual event!



What do you call 42 men sitting around watching the Super Bowl Game on HDTV?
The Buffalo Bills

Ash Wednesday Schedule

- 8:00 am - Mass with distribution of Ashes
- 12:00 pm - Distribution of Ashes and Scripture Reading
- 5:30 pm - Mass with distribution of Ashes
- 6:15 pm - Parish Lenten Meal in the Parish Hall



- * Sunday, February 14 - No Religious Education Classes - February Break!
- * Monday, February 15 - Scripture Sharings 10-11 am in the Rectory Meeting Room
- * Wednesday, February 17 - No Religious Education Classes - February Break!; Lenten Meal - immediately after the 5:30 pm Mass in the Parish Hall
- * Friday, February 19 - Sandwiches for St. Vincent de Paul Society will be made after the 8:00 am Mass in the Parish Hall - volunteers are welcome!; Stations of the Cross - 7:30 pm followed by Communion service
- * Weekend of February 20-21 - Blood Pressure Screenings after each Mass in the Library of the Church; Akron/Newstead Food Pantry Collection barrels will be out in the back of Church - Canned Fruit is needed!
- * Sunday, February 21 - Religious Education Classes - 9:00 - 10:00 am and 11:15 am - 12:30 pm

Lenten Scripture Sharings - To be held on Mondays during Lent, starting Monday, February 15th thru March 22nd. 10-11 am in the Rectory Meeting Room.

BOTTOM LINE:

"Blessed are those who hope in the Lord."